

9. PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement and citizen participation are an integral part of this feasibility study. Coordination by the Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with the local sponsor, municipalities adjacent to the study area, other agencies, and interested parties has occurred on a regular basis since the beginning of the study.

Meetings with officials and residents of Long Hill Township and other interested parties were conducted in groups and on an individual basis. The purpose of carrying out coordination with officials, citizens and other interested parties is to ensure that the study addresses all pertinent questions from the public, is of the highest quality, and ultimately meets the needs of the people it will serve. The table below summarizes the significant meetings where a municipality, group, or agency was briefed on the study.

Numerous meetings and coordination activities were conducted to gather data, conduct field studies, and notify property owners in the study area of the work being conducted. The contacts and meetings for data gathering and coordination are too numerous to mention herein, but are summarized in the next paragraphs.

As required under for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Application for a Letter of Interpretation (LOI) over one hundred property owners in the study area were contacted or notified of the application as it relates to the study. These contacts and notifications are documented in the LOI application. Coordination with environmental and cultural resource agencies is also documented in the integrated Main Report Environmental Assessment.

Property owners within the proposed alignment of the plan alternatives were contacted and rights-of-entry were requested from them for the purposes of conducting environmental and geotechnical field studies. Approximately 20 property entries were requested and nearly all of them were returned with the owner allowing access to the property. Further coordination relating to the real estate activities being conducted is presented in the Real Estate Appendix.

Besides the coordination with Long Hill Township and municipalities adjacent to the study area, contacts with various Federal, State, and local agencies were also made. They include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Geological Survey, NJTransit, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Morris County Parks, Morris County Engineer, public utilities, and others. Coordination with elected representatives at the Federal, State, and local level has also been integral to the process.

Pertinent letters of correspondence are provided below. The correspondence presented indicates the non-Federal sponsor's formal position on the feasibility report and Long Hill Township's Position. A copy of the notice that was also issued to inform interested parties of the public information meeting held prior to the release of the report is also presented. Correspondence relating to general requests for information, questions, letters of invitation, technical, environmental, cultural, real estate rights-of-entry, permits and other matters are too numerous to be present here. Correspondence relating to those matters number in the hundreds.

During the public review of this draft feasibility report the public, agencies, and all interested parties will be asked to comment on the report. The comments may be sent in the form of a written letter or e-mail. All relevant comments in letter and e-mail form will be published in the

final feasibility report as a part of the public record. Responses will be provided where appropriate.

A second public information meeting will also be held during the review of this draft feasibility report. It should be further noted that the public involvement process never ends. Meetings will continue to be held after the feasibility report is completed, through the design effort and through construction.

Table 9-1
Briefing/Coordination Meetings with Study Area Municipalities, Public, and Interested Parties

DATE	AGENCY(S) / GROUP(S)/ ORGANIZATION (S)	PURPOSE	LOCATION
23-May-00	Long Hill Township - Mayor Long Hill Police & Emergency Op. Manager Long Hill Township - Administrator Long Hill Environmental Commissioner USACE	Feasibility Study Kick-off	Long Hill Township Police Station
7-Feb-02	Bernard Township USACE	Recreation areas questions and address residential concerns	Bernard Township
11-Feb-02	Morris County Parks Commission USACE	Briefing on USACE studies/projects in Morris County including Upper Passaic River and Tributaries at Long Hill Township	Morris County Parks Commission, Morristown
13-Mar-02	Long Hill Township Administrator Long Hill Township Mayor Chief of Police USACE	Study progress update	Long Hill Township
22-May-02	Warren Township Administrator Warren Environmental Commission Chair USACE	Brief Administrator and Environmental Commission	Warren Township
20-Jun-02	USACE Representative, Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission	Site visit meeting on flooding around Chaucers Brook, Dell Lane, Park Ave	Berkeley Heights Township

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DATE	AGENCY(S) / GROUP(S)/ ORGANIZATION (S)	PURPOSE	LOCATION
26-Jun-02	NJDEP Long Hill Township Chief of Police Long Hill Township Administrator Long Hill Township Mayor Long Hill Twsp Office of Emergency Mgmt Long Hill Twsp Environmental Commissioner USACE	Status update on study including hydrology, economics, coordination, alternatives	Long Hill Township Police Station
12-Sep-02	Warren Township Council USACE	Brief Council on study and request approval to access Town Properties for environmental restoration field work	Warren Township Municipal Building
23-Sep-02	Morris County MVA - Environmental Specialist Passaic River Coalition RVRSA - Manager of Operations NJDEP USEPA - Watershed Coordinator Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet WRWAC TBSA	Update on USACE studies/projects in WMA #6 including Upper Passaic River and Tributaries	Rockaway Valley Sewer Authority Offices, Boonton, New Jersey
2-Dec-02	NJDEP Long Hill Township Chief of Police Long Hill Township Administrator Long Hill Township Mayor Long Hill Twsp Office of Emergency Mgmt Long Hill Twsp Environmental Commissioner USACE	Status update on study including hydrology, economics, engineering, real estate, plan alternatives, upcoming public information meeting	Long Hill Township Police Station

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DATE	AGENCY(S) / GROUP(S)/ ORGANIZATION (S)	PURPOSE	LOCATION
30-Jan-03	Public Information Meeting - attended by town officials, public (approximately 50 individuals in attendance) USACE NJDEP	Overview provided on study to date, questions answered, and input solicited from public	Millington School, Long Hill Township
13-May-03	NJDEP Long Hill Township Chief of Police Long Hill Township Administrator Long Hill Township Mayor Long Hill Twsp Office of Emergency Mgmt. Long Hill Twsp Environmental Commissioner USACE	Status update on draft feasibility report findings	Long Hill Township Department of Public Works
13-May-03	Friends of Long Hill Twsp USACE NJDEP	Discussion of study plan details including hydrology, hydraulics, environmental, costs, schedule	Meyersville Grange Hall
12-Aug-03	Congressman Ferguson's Representative Warren Township committee members Warren Township Engineer Warren Township Environmental Commission Members Passaic River Coalition NJDEP USACE	Provide briefing on study and potential alternatives	Congressman Ferguson's Martinsville's office
28-Aug-03	Long Hill Mayor Long Hill Administrator NJDEP USACE	Status update on study and draft feasibility report	Long Hill Township Town Hall

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DATE	AGENCY(S) / GROUP(S)/ ORGANIZATION (S)	PURPOSE	LOCATION
15-Sep-03	Warren Township committee members Warren Township Engineer Warren Twsp Envir Commission Members NJDEP USACE	Field visit to Warren Township to discuss clearing and snagging of Passaic River and check flood elevations	Warren Township
18-Sep-03	Morris County Planning Board USACE	Status update on study and draft feasibility report as part of overall briefing on Morris County projects	County Planning Office, Morristown



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Programs and Project
Management Division

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090

January 14, 2003

To Potentially Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting a feasibility study for flood protection and environmental restoration for the Upper Passaic River and Tributaries in Long Hill Township, New Jersey. The study is being conducted in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The study was authorized in a resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, adopted May 7, 1997.

Studies were initiated with the release of a public notice on June 30, 1999. Activities to date have included the preparation of a topographic survey of the study area in Long Hill Township, the modeling of the hydrology and hydraulics of the Upper Passaic River and its tributaries, environmental studies, cultural resources studies, economic analyses of flood damages, geotechnical investigations, and the formulation of plan alternatives to address the flooding in Long Hill Township.

Long Hill Township is hosting an information meeting at 7PM, January 30, 2003 at the Millington School located at 91 Northfield Road, Millington. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will be present to provide an overview on the studies conducted to date, describe the potential alternatives for flood protection, and answer questions related to the study.

If have questions related to the study and cannot attend the meeting you may contact Paul A. Tumminello, P.E., Project Manager at 212-264-0437 or paul.tumminello@usace.army.mil



State of New Jersey

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
Natural and Historic Resources
Division of Engineering & Construction

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

NOV 22 2002

Mr. Paul Tumminello, P.E.
Programs and Project Management Division
New York District, Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Tumminello:

This letter is a follow up to our coordination of the Upper Passaic River, New Jersey Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study.

At this time, I would like to reiterate that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection supports the recommendations that are included in the draft P-7 document and are due to be included in the final report for the Upper Passaic River, New Jersey Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study within Long Hill Township.

We will continue to work with you and your staff to finalize the recommended flood damage reduction structure design. Please be assured of our interest and support in this matter and our desire to get this project to completion.

Very truly yours,

John H. Moyle, P.E.
Acting Administrator
Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control

c: Clark D. Gilman, P.E.
Charles E. Defendorf, P.E.



State of New Jersey

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
Natural and Historic Resources
Division of Engineering & Construction

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

APR 16 2003

Colonel John O'Dowd, Commander,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10278

Dear Colonel O'Dowd:

This letter is a follow up to our ongoing coordination with you on the Upper Passaic River, Long Hill Township, New Jersey Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study. We have reviewed the preliminary draft feasibility report and understand that it is subject to an internal Corps review followed by a public review before it is finalized.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection supports the recommendations that are included in the feasibility report as it stands today. We will continue to work with you and your staff to finalize the feasibility report. Please be assured of our interest and support in this matter and our desire to get this project implemented.

Very truly yours,

John H. Moyle, P.E.
Acting Administrator
Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control

c: Clark D. Gilman, P.E.
Charles E. Defendorf, P.E.
Paul A. Tumminello, P.E., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS - NEW YORK
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State of New Jersey

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Natural and Historic Resources

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Commissioner

APR 16 2003

Colonel John O'Dowd, Commander,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10278

Dear Colonel O'Dowd:

This letter is a follow up to our ongoing coordination with you on the Upper Passaic River, Long Hill Township, New Jersey Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study. We have reviewed the preliminary draft feasibility reports' project cost estimate and understand our responsibility as the non-Federal sponsor.

This letter will serve as our notification to you that in accordance with the provisions of Section 101 (a)(18) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 as amended in 1992 and the Passaic River Wetlands Bank established by us in 1998 and approved by you, we will be applying credits available in the Wetlands Bank to our share of project costs.

We look forward to continued coordination with you and please be assured of our interest and support in this matter and our desire to get this project implemented.

Very truly yours,

John H. Moyle, P.E.
Acting Administrator
Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control

c: Clark D. Gilman, P.E.
Charles E. Defendorf, P.E.
Paul A. Tumminello, P.E., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

E-Mail Address: DamSafety@dep.state.nj.us

Internet Address: www.state.nj.us/dep/damsafety

Mailing Address: 501 East State Street, P.O. Box 419, Trenton, NJ 08625-0419

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State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
Natural and Historic Resources
Division of Engineering & Construction

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NOV 14 2003

Mr. Paul Tumminello, P.E.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Tumminello:

This letter is a follow up to our ongoing coordination with you on the Upper Passaic River, Long Hill Township, New Jersey Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study.

Both the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Township of Long Hill support the project. The commitment by the Township of Long Hill has been clearly demonstrated by Council resolution of support which has passed last Wednesday evening (copy enclosed).

We look forward to continued coordination with you as the pace of work on this important project accelerates.

Very truly yours,

John H. Moyle, P.E.
Acting Administrator
Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control

C: Kevin Sluka, Long Hill Township
Clark D. Gilman, P.E.
Charles Defendorf, P.E.

RESOLUTION 03 - 383
SUPPORTING THE UPPER PASSAIC RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES FLOOD PROTECTION
& ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Flooding in the Township of Long Hill has caused extensive damage to businesses, residences and infrastructure to the Township of Long Hill, impacting thoroughfares, requiring road closures and impacting Police Headquarters during flood events; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives authorized a study to be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers with the cooperation of the Township of Long Hill; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill supported the Upper Passaic River and Tributaries Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Study; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Long Hill hosted a public meeting to discuss the study on January 30, 2003 at the Millington School in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental protection and its consultants; and

WHEREAS, the study is intended to identify the flooding problem, identify the means necessary to reduce flooding, identify opportunities for restoration of the ecosystem, evaluate the technical, economic, environmental and feasibility to address the flooding problem; and

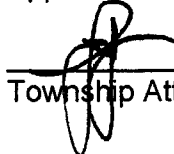
WHEREAS, the results of the study is currently being reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers at the Washington D.C. District office and

WHEREAS, the Township will host a public meeting to review and evaluate the results of the study upon the release of the documents from the Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, subject to review and comment by the public and the Township Committee, the Township of Long Hill supports the Upper Passaic River and Tributaries Project and urges the continued Federal and State funding of this project:


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Long Hill, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey supports the Upper River and Tributaries Flood Protection & Ecosystem Restoration Project subject to public comment and review:

Approved as to Form and Legality

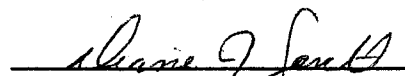


Township Attorney

Adopted by Township Committee on November 12, 2003




Mayor



Township Clerk

INTRODUCED	SECONDED	COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
	✓	FALZARANO	✓			
		NERGAARD	✓			
✓		SADOWSKI	✓			
		WELCH	✓			
		DAPKINS	✓			

I, Diane J. Gavitt, Township Clerk of the Township of Long Hill, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a duly convened meeting held on November 12, 2003.


Diane J. Gavitt, RMC
Municipal Clerk